the registry of survey No. 119/1 of Muttambalam, Vijayapuram, Kottayam, of survey No. 49/1 of Valiakavu Reserve and of certain other areas, as being due to the indifference of certain subordinate revenue officers. He said that there were further difficulties in the registry of puduvals when they had to compete in open auction with the members of other communities who had influence and wealth to achieve their ends. In that connection he quoted the instance of the registry of 30 acres of reclamation from the Vembanad lake in the Kumarakam pakuthi.

In conclusion, he prayed that the Government might be pleased to issue specific orders that, for some time to come, preference should be given to applications for lands from the members of his community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

16. Registry of puduval and poramboke lands in the names of Pariahs for habitation.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) thanked the Dewan for nominating him to the Assembly to represent the grievances of one of the most depressed classes in Travancore. He said that, out of 70,000 Pariahs in Travancore, not more than five in a thousand had lands of their own for habitation, and therefore prayed that, wherever possible, puduvals should be ordered to be registered in their names. Even when they entered on, and made fit for cultivation, puduval and poramboke lands, influential members of other communities got the same registered in their own names and drove away the unoffending Pariah with his family from the lands. He had applied for the registry of certain puduval areas in the taluks of Kunnattur, Ambalapuzha, Tiruvalla, Karunagapalli, Mavelikara and Peermade taluks. He feared that the lands would be eventually registered to others and therefore requested that specific orders might be issued to expedite the assignment of the lands to them. He understood that there were areas included in proposed reserves which were not of use to the reserves, such as Thollayirakuzhimannu in the Valiakavu Reserve, Kalappakodumannu and Srampikalmannu in the Alapra Reserve, Aruvikalkavumannu in the Madaman Reserve, Pukkavumannu in the Karikode Reserve and certain similar areas in the Kodumon Reserve. Those areas might be ordered to be registered in the names of Pariahs.

He said that areas on the sides of the road from the Manimala river, through the reserves, to Rani and Koni to a distance of about 3½ miles and covering an area of about 5,000 acres, might be ordered to be registered in their names for the establishment of a Pariah colony.

He also prayed for the registry of 28 cents in survey No. 385/5 in the Tiruvalla pakuthi for the construction of a building for the common use of the whole community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

17. Desirability of modifying G. O. No. 2987/L. R., dated the 19th April 1915, so far as it relates to the method of assessment of compensation for land and trees.

Mr. K. T. Thomas (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, before the advent of the Land Acquisition Regulation, III of 1067, the compensation paid to the owners of land acquired for Government purposes, was nominal. To place the rights of the owners on an equitable footing, the above Regulation was passed, and subsequent amendments were made to it by Regulations VIII of 1085 and XI of 1089 to afford greater relief to the owners of lands. That that was the object of the later Regulations was evident from a comparison of Sections 10 and 18 of the Regulation of 1067 with the Regulation of 1085 and Section 22 of the Regulation of 1089. Soon after the passing of the Regulation of 1089, the Acting Head Sirkar Vakil made certain suggestions regarding the procedure to be adopted under the Regulation in assessing compensation for lands. He suggested that the practice of first valuing the entire ground and then the trees should be discouraged. When the entire land was valued, the trees standing on it should be classed as timber or fuel, and when the trees were individually valued, no separate compensation should be paid for that portion of the ground which would be necessary for the trees to stand upon. The views of the Peishkars were invited and the G. O. in question was accordingly issued sanctioning the proposal. The popular view of the question was never brought to

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the notice of the Government. The effect of the G. O. was to undo the beneficent provisions of the Regulation. There was no justification for thus repealing the Regulation, passed in the Legislative Council, by a G. O. Ever after the Regulation of 1067, the practice of the courts was to award ground value and value of the trees separately.

Dewan.—Generally, with reference to the amount of compensation awarded when lands were acquired, do you contend that the value given to the owners is too low ?

Member.—No, Sir. If the value of the ground and of the trees be given, the compensation will be moderate and, in that case, I have no grievance.

Dewan.—Is there any specific instance in which, by reason of the above order, the compensation awarded fell very low ?

The Member said that there were several instances in which the owners were prejudicially affected. He said that the High Court decided a case in A. S. No. 423 of 1089 after the passing of the G. O., adopting the interpretation contained in it, but without actually referring to it in the judgment, even though there was a prior decision by a Full Bench of the High Court in A. S. 127 of 1076 to the contrary effect. It was in the case of jenmom lands that the greatest hardship resulted by an application of the proceedings, for, if the ground was valued, three-fourths of the compensation went to the Jenmi and if the trees were valued, three-fourths would go to the Kudiyan.

He took the hypothetical case of two persons possessing an acre of ground in the High Ranges, in the mofussil parts and in a town. One of them planted first class cocoanut trees in all the three places, and the other left his holdings fallow. In the High Ranges the former would get Rs. 2,500 as compensation at the rate of Rs. 25 per cocoanut tree, while the latter would get only Rs. 100 as ground value, at Re. 1 per cent. In the mofussil parts, where the ground value might be put at Rs. 25 per cent, both of them would get Rs. 2,500 each, the industrious and the indolent equally. In the town, where the ground value might be put at Rs. 50 per cent, the industrious man would get only Rs. 2,500 while the indolent would get Rs. 5,000. Such was the practical result of the working of the above-said G. O. He therefore prayed that the G. O. might be annulled and the original procedure of separate valuation of land and trees restored.

Dewan's reply.—The G. O does not require any modification.

18. The value charged on forest land.

Mr. S. P. Eaton (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that his representation had already formed the subject of a deputation to the Government and it was receiving their favourable consideration. He was of opinion that any barrier such as the present land regulation placed in the way of the development of cultivation of lands would be prejudicial to the best interests of the State itself. The undeveloped resources of a country did not represent wealth. Consequent to the development of cultivation, a very large sum of money was put in circulation, the benefits from which accrued to the State itself and to the various communities resident therein. It was pointed out that the present affluent condition of Mundakayam and Peermade were instances which would go to support his view. The present Regulation, he feared, would absolutely prohibit further development of the planting industry. He hoped that the Government would give the matter their most favourable consideration.

Dewan's reply.—I have been discussing this question with Mr. Stewart and others. I shall consider it again.

(2) FOREST.

19. Desirability of permitting the people of the Tovala taluk to remove fuel and green manure from the adjoining reserved forests on the free pass system.

Mr. S. Lekshminarayana Aiyar (Member, Tovala taluk) said that the people of the taluk were allowed, till recently, to transport fuel from the Veerapuli

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